

Math 124 Fall 2004
Assignment 2
Due: Nov 3, 2004

Dr Ben Bolstad
bolstad_math124@bmbolstad.com
<http://math124sfsu.bmbolstad.com>

This assignment is intended to give you more practice using excel. You should submit your solutions to this assignment as a brief written report. Do not submit print outs of raw Excel spreadsheets alone. That means don't hand in printouts of the data. Since this is the second assignment it is expected that you will take more care in your presentation ie accurately label and title your figures. It is also expected that you will clearly and concisely interpret your figures. Presentation will count more than it did in the previous assignment.

Unemployment data

The data file on the website (available in either tab delimited text or Excel 2000 formats) contains quarterly unemployment rates (as percentages) for the period 1993 to 1996 for 5 countries. The countries are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Your job is to create two plots of this data.

1. A plot showing how the unemployment rate changes over time for the 5 countries. You should write a 1 paragraph description about what your plot shows.
2. A plot of the same data, but this time something which is not statistically valid (eg inconsistent use of sizes, weird changes in scale, misuse of 3D effects). Note that this is not an open option to do something completely ridiculous, the figure you produce should just display the data in a misleading way. Write a 1 paragraph description explaining why the figure you have produced is misleading.